

1 1. In a home entertainment system including a central device coupled to a
2 plurality of electronics devices, wherein the plurality of electronics devices includes a
3 display device and a descrambler, and wherein the central device manages the operation of
4 the plurality of electronics devices, a method for tuning channels that are requested by a user
5 for display on the display device, the method comprising the steps for:

6 receiving user input at the central device, wherein the user input selects a
7 channel that corresponds to a signal carrying programming, and wherein the signal is
8 received by the entertainment system;

9 determining from an electronic programming guide at the central device
10 whether the signal is scrambled or non-scrambled;

11 if the signal is determined from the electronic programming guide to be
12 scrambled, performing the steps for:

13 routing the scrambled signal from the central device to the
14 descrambler; and

15 using the descrambler to descramble and tune the scrambled signal for
16 display on the display device; and

17 if the signal is determined from the electronic programming guide to be non-
18 scrambled, performing the step for:

19 using an internal tuner at the central device to tune the non-scrambled
20 signal for display on the display device.

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22 2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising, after descrambling and
23 tuning the scrambled signal at the descrambler, performing the step for sending the
24 descrambled and tuned signal from the descrambler to the central device.

1 3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the descrambler is a cable box.

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3 4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the user input is sent to the

4 entertainment system by a remote control device.

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1 5. A computer program product for implementing in an entertainment system
2 that includes a central device coupled to a plurality of electronics devices, wherein the
3 central device manages the operation of the electronics devices, a computer program product
4 for implementing a method for tuning signals carrying programming that correspond to
5 channels selected by a user, the computer program product comprising:

6 a computer-readable medium carrying computer executable instructions for
7 performing the method, wherein the method comprises steps for:

8 receiving and storing at the home entertainment system an electronic
9 programming guide that specifies whether a signal that carries programming
10 is scrambled or non-scrambled;

11 upon a user selecting a first channel, wherein the first channel
12 corresponds to a first signal that is specified in the electronic programming
13 guide as being scrambled, routing the first signal from the central device to a
14 descrambling device, wherein the descrambling device is one of the plurality
15 of electronics devices; and

16 upon a user selecting the second channel, wherein the second channel
17 corresponds to a second signal that is specified in the electronic programming
18 guide as being non-scrambled, routing the second signal to an internal tuner
19 at the central device.

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21 6. A computer program product as recited in claim 5, wherein the first signal is
22 descrambled and tuned at the descrambling device.

1 7. A computer program product as recited in claim 6, wherein upon
2 descrambling and tuning the first signal at the descrambling device, sending the descrambled
3 first signal to the central device.

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1 8. A tuning system for use in an entertainment system that includes a plurality
2 of consumer electronics devices coupled to a central device, wherein the central device
3 manages the operation of the consumer electronics devices, and wherein all signals received
4 by the entertainment system pass through the central device, the tuning system comprising:

5 a first tuner at the central device, wherein the first tuner tunes signals
6 carrying programming that are non-scrambled;

7 a second tuner at a descrambling device, wherein the descrambling device is
8 one of the plurality of consumer electronics devices coupled to the central device,
9 and wherein the second tuner tunes signals carrying programming that are
10 scrambled; and

11 an electronic programming guide stored at the central device, wherein the
12 electronic programming guide specifies whether a signal carrying programming is
13 scrambled or non-scrambled.

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15 9. A tuning system as recited in claim 8, further comprising means for selecting
16 a channel, wherein the channel corresponds to a signal carrying programming.

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18 10. A tuning system as recited in claim 9, wherein the means for selecting a
19 channel includes a remote control device.

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21 11. A tuning system as recited in claim 9, wherein when the electronic
22 programming guide specifies that a selected channel corresponds to a scrambled signal
23 carrying programming, means for routing the scrambled signal to the descrambling device.

1 12. A tuning system as recited in claim 11, wherein the scrambled signal is
2 descrambled by the descrambling device and tuned by the second tuner.

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4 13. A tuning system as recited in claim 12, wherein the descrambling device
5 includes a cable box.

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7 14. A tuning system as recited in claim 12, further comprising means for routing
8 the descrambled and tuned signal from the descrambler to the central device.

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